Report on the Jail Administration of the Province of Assam for the year 1939

BY

LIEUT.-COLONEL L. A. P. ANDERSON, M.A., M.D., B.Ch., D.P.H., D.T.M. & H. (CAMB.), I.M.S.,
INSPECTOR-GENERAL OF PRISONS, ASSAM.

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Report on the Administration of the Jails of the Province of Assam, 1939

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Office of the Inspector-General of Prisons, Assam

No.1816.

FROM

LIEUT.-COLONEL L. A. P. ANDERSON, M.A., M.D., B.Ch., D.P.H., D.T.M. & H. (CAMB.). I.M.S.,

INSPECTOR-GENERAL OF PRISONS, ASSAM,

TO

THE CHIEF SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM.

Dated Shillong, the 19th April 1940.

SIR,

Introductory.—I have the honour to submit herewith the report on the administration of the Assam Jail Department for the year 1939.

2. *Inspector-General of Prisons.*—Colonel E. S. Phipson, C.I.E., D.S.O., M.D., F.R.C.P., I.M.S., held charge of the Department throughout the year.

3. *Number of Jails.*—The number of jails remained the same as in the previous year.

JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

4. *General Summary.*—The year commenced with a population of 3,161 prisoners of all classes in confinement, showing a decrease of 200 as compared with the figure of the previous year. The numbers admitted and discharged were 13,866 and 13,656, against 13,265 and 13,465, respectively, in 1938; the admissions increased by 601 and the discharges by 191. Three thousand three hundred and seventy-one remained in confinement at the close of the year.

The daily average number of prisoners of all classes declined from 3,304·12 in 1938 to 3,215·72 in 1939, or a decrease of 88·40. Of this number, 2,634·45 were convicts, 579·56 under-trials, 1·24 civil and ·47 State prisoners.

Compared with the previous year, there was a fall during the year under report in the daily average number of prisoners of all classes except under-trials.

This decrease in the jail population has not materially relieved the problem of overcrowding in some of the jails.

The problem of overcrowding in the jails is not one of lack of total accommodation for prisoners in Assam, but of difficulty in distribution.

For example, there is chronic overcrowding in some of the smaller jails, due largely to under-trial prisoners and to those awaiting the result of their appeal, whilst in the larger jails, housing long-term convicts, there is room and to spare. This difficulty can only be overcome by increasing the accommodation at some of the smaller jails.

5. *Statement No.I—Convicts.*—The convict population at the beginning of the year was 2,623 of whom 2,590 were males and 33 females. The number admitted into jails on conviction was 4,273 (4,203 males and 70 females), against 4,245 (4,157 males and 88 females) in the previous year.

The total number of convicts dealt with, including transfers from other jails both in and out of the province, was 8,575, against 8,874 in the previous year. Of this number, 1,766 were transferred to other jails, 4,033 released, 5 transferred to the Mental Hospital, 2 escaped and remained at large, 2 executed and 79 died, leaving a balance of 2,688 in confinement at the end of the year.

The undesirable practice of detaining certified lunatics in jails for periods considerably in excess of the prescribed period for want of adequate accommodation in the Mental Hospital, Tezpur, which was referred to in last year's Report, persisted this year also ; but it is hoped that the additional barrack now under construction in the Mental Hospital, Tezpur, will relieve the situation to some extent.

The proportion of convicts to the free population of the province was 1 to 3,510 or 2·85 per 10,000, calculated on the daily average number of convicts, and 1 to 2,164 or 4·62 per 10,000 calculated on the number imprisoned during the year. The corresponding figures for 1938 were 3,297 or 3·03 and 2,179 or 4·59, respectively.

6. *Statement No.XVIII—Under-trial Prisoners.*—Five hundred and thirty-five undertrial prisoners remained in jails at the beginning of the year and 7,897 were received during the year, making a total of 8,432. Of this number, 5,135 were acquitted and released, 2,271 convicted and sentenced, 334 transferred, 3 escaped and 6 died. The number remaining at the close of the year was 683, against 535 in 1938. The daily average increased from 495·52 to 579·56.

The number released on bail was 3,505 and the number subsequently convicted 1,227 ; those released after formal warning were 208. The number released in direct and excise cases and not concerned with the Police amounted to 378.

The average period of detention in Magistrates' cases was 21·61 days, against 21·23 days in 1938. The highest figure is reported from the Dhubri District Jail (29·39). One hundred and forty-one prisoners were detained for periods of over three months in the province.

With a view to reducing the period of detention of under-trial prisoners to a minimum, those cases of detention for over two months in Sessions cases and one month in Magistrates' cases are brought monthly to the notice of Government for necessary action.

7. *Civil prisoners.*—There was 1 civil prisoner in custody at the beginning of the year. The admissions during the year amounted to 15, making a total of 16. All of these prisoners were released, leaving none in custody at the close of the year.

8. *State prisoners.*—The only two Naga State prisoners who remained in custody at the beginning of the year were released during the year on certain conditions under the orders of Government.

9. *Statement No.II—Religion of convicts.*—Of the 4,273 convicts admitted during the year, 49·57 per cent. were Hindus and Sikhs, 43·18 per cent. Muslims, ·54 per cent. Christians, ·04 per cent. Buddhists and Jains and 6·67 per cent. other religions.

As usual all reasonable facilities permissible under the rules were allowed, as far as possible, to prisoners for the performance of their religious practices. The honorary religious instructors (both Hindus and Muslims) appointed for 13 jails in this province visited the jails and imparted religious and moral instruction to prisoners.

10. *Age periods.*—The following figures compare the number and percentages of convicts admitted during 1938 and 1939 according to age :—

	1938.	1939.
Under 16 years	18 or ·42 per cent.	10 or ·24 per cent.
Between 16 and 21 years	288 or 6·79 per cent.	291 or 6·81 per cent.
Between 22 and 30 years	1,927 or 45·40 per cent.	1,920 or 44·93 per cent.
Between 31 and 40 years	1,209 or 28·48 per cent.	1,179 or 27·59 per cent.
Between 40 and 60 years	740 or 17·43 per cent.	797 or 18·65 per cent.
Above 60 years	63 or 1·48 per cent.	76 or 1·78 per cent.

Of the 10 prisoners under 16 years of age, only 6 were youthful offenders eligible for detention in the Reformatory School, Hazaribagh ; but under the orders of the sentencing Courts only 2 prisoners were selected to undergo detention in that institution. No unusual delay occurred in effecting their transfer to the School.

Complete separation of juveniles from adult prisoners is unfortunately not possible in Assam under existing conditions and this unsatisfactory state of affairs will persist until accommodation in the jails admitting juveniles is improved, or arrangements can be made to concentrate all these prisoners in a single jail exclusively meant for their detention. With this end in view the question of the conversion of the Nowgong District Jail into a juvenile jail is under consideration.

11. *Sex.*—The number of female convicts imprisoned during the year was 70, against 88 in the previous year. Of these, 40 were Hindus and Sikhs, 9 Muslims and 21 belonged to other classes.

Eight female prisoners were between the ages of 16 to 21, twenty-five between 22 to 30, twenty between 31 to 40, fourteen between 41 to 60 and three above 60 years.

Forty were married, four unmarried, twenty-four widows and two prostitutes. All of them were illiterate.

12. *Previous occupation.*—Classified by occupation, 22 or ·52 per cent. were employed under Government, Municipal or other local authorities, 29 or ·69 per cent. were professional persons, 859 or 20·44 per cent. were in service or performing personal office, 2,978 or 70·85 per cent. were engaged in agriculture and with animals, 72 or 1·71 per cent. were engaged in commerce and trade, 57 or 1·36 per cent. in mechanical arts, etc. and 186 or 4·43 per cent. were persons of miscellaneous occupation.

13. *Education.*—Out of the 4,273 convicts admitted during the year, 80 or 1·87 per cent. were literate and 4,193 or 98·13 per cent. were illiterate.

14. *Statement No. III—Nature and length of sentence.*—The following table compares the admissions and ratio figures of those admitted direct during the past three years according to the term of sentence:—

—	Number admitted			Ratio per cent.		
	1937	1938	1939	1937	1938	1939
Not exceeding one month	645	618	575	14·44	14·56	13·46
Above one month and not exceeding 3 months.	1,117	1,065	1,137	25·01	25·09	26·61
Above three months and not exceeding 6 months.	1,276	1,209	1,200	28·57	28·48	28·08
Above six months and not exceeding 1 year.	805	725	737	18·03	17·08	17·25
Above one year and not exceeding 2 years.	338	337	304	7·57	7·94	7·11
Above two years and not exceeding 5 years.	182	169	219	4·08	3·98	5·13
Above five years and not exceeding 10 years.	48	76	63	1·07	1·79	1·47
Above ten years	2	12	5	·04	·28	·12
Transportation for life	41	29	25	·92	·68	·58
Transportation for a term	4	1	...	·09	·02	...
Sentenced to death	8	4	8	·18	·10	·19

The number of cases of simple imprisonment declined from 165 in 1938 to 128 in 1939 and in 11 of these cases the law allowed the infliction of rigorous imprisonment. There was a slight increase in the number of convicts sentenced to rigorous imprisonment, *viz.*, 4,080 in 1938 to 4,135 in 1939. There was a case of rigorous imprisonment with solitary imprisonment, against nil in the previous year and the number of cases of rigorous imprisonment combined with whipping was 9, against nil in 1938.

Of the total number of convicts that remained in jails at the end of the year, *viz.*, 2,688, one was under sentence of death, 164 were sentenced to transportation for life, one to transportation for a term of years, 17 to periods of imprisonment exceeding 10 years, 1,096 to terms above one year and not exceeding 10 years and 1,409 to periods not exceeding one year.

15. *Statement No. IV—Previously convicted prisoners.*—The number and ratio per-cent. of this class of prisoners imprisoned during the year were 735 and 17, against 719 and 17, respectively, in the previous year. The figure includes 280 imprisoned for the first time in default of finding security under section 110, Criminal Procedure Code and classed as habituals. Of the remainder, 342 had one, 39 two and 74 more than two previous convictions. Classification was carried out by the convicting Courts in 734 cases and by the Jail Superintendent in one case.

The nature of the accommodation at present existing in the Jails of Assam stands in the way of complete separation of prisoners according to classification. The separation of habituals from casuals was, however, carried out as far as possible. As reported in previous years, the worst type of incorrigible offenders and all long-term habituals are concentrated in the jails at Tezpur and Sylhet, but even in these jails a certain amount of the accommodation has to be reserved for casuals.

The question of provision of separate accommodation for habituals has been engaging the attention of Government in connection with the introduction of certain Jail Reforms now under the consideration of Government.

16. *Star Class System.*—The best of the casual prisoners are classed under this head and separated, as far as practicable, from other prisoners so as to avoid their coming into contact with hardened criminals. Here again, the nature of the accommodation provided in the jails of Assam is an impediment to their complete separation.

Special Division Prisoners.—Special arrangements exist in the Sylhet and Tezpur District Jails for the detention of "A" Division prisoners and in all the larger jails for the detention of "B" Division prisoners.

No prisoner was placed in the "A" Division during the year.

Fourteen "B" Division prisoners remained in custody at the beginning of the year and 13 were admitted during the year, making a total of 27. Of these, the number released during the year was 15, leaving 12 in confinement at the end of the year.

17. *Escapes and Recapture.*—Two convicts from outside and one convict and three under-trials from inside escaped during the year under report, against one in the previous year. These escapes occurred in the jails at Kohima, Sibsagar, South Sylhet, Golaghat and Nowgong.

The escapes from intramural custody were partly due to carelessness on the part of the warders on duty, but structural defects also contributed to the escapes.

The following is a brief history of the manner in which the escapes were effected :—

Kohima.—Two under-trial prisoners managed to escape from inside the jail by scaling the bamboo palisade. Both of them were recaptured—one within an hour and the other soon after the evening of the same day. The warder responsible for the escape was dealt with departmentally.

Sibsagar.—One under-trial prisoner escaped from the Hospital Ward in the jail through a collapsible truck door and scaled the main wooden gate. He was recaptured on the same day. The warder responsible for the escape was suitably punished.

South Sylhet.—One convict escaped from inside the jail, slipping through the gate by mixing with a gang of prisoners who were being taken for extramural work. The head warder and two other warders responsible for the escape were adequately punished. The escaped convict is still at large.

Golaghat.—One convict escaped from custody while engaged in extramural duty. Two warders responsible for the escape were duly punished. The convict is still at large.

Nowgong.—One convict made his escape from custody when employed extramurally but he was recaptured after one month and ten days. The warder and the convict overseer responsible for the escape were duly punished.

Out of the four recaptured prisoners, one was a convict and tried under Section 224, Indian Penal Code and sentenced to rigorous imprisonment for four months. The other three who were undertrials were also judicially tried and punished.

18. *Statement No. VI—Jail Offences and Punishments.*—There was a drop in the total number of offences committed when compared with the previous year, *viz.*, 974, against 1,074. Of these, 2 were dealt with by Criminal Courts and the remainder by Superintendents of Jails.

Offences relating to work rose from 125 to 148, those relating to prohibited articles fell from 260 to 251 ; there were 143 offences relating to assaults and escapes during the year, against 140 in 1938. All other breaches of jail rules amounted to 430, against 545 in the year previous.

Of the 2 punishments inflicted by Criminal Courts, 1 was in connection with escape and 1 for assaulting a fellow convict.

Of the 972 punishments awarded by the Superintendents of Jails, 693 were minor and 279 major, against 789 and 281 respectively, in the previous year.

During the year under report there were a few individual cases of hunger-strikes amongst convicts on flimsy and frivolous grounds. These convicts went on hunger-strike merely to put the authorities into trouble without having any legitimate grievances. Forced feeding had to be resorted to in some cases where the hunger-strike lasted for a protracted period.

It is gratifying to note that discipline was maintained this year at a high standard without undue resort to punitive measures, as would be evident from the absence of any disturbance and from the fall in the number of punishments inflicted.

19. *Corporal Punishments.*—As in the previous year no corporal punishments were inflicted during the year.

Flogging is now reserved only for punishment of really savage assaults.

20. *Conduct of Habituals.*—Of the 4,273 convicts admitted during the year, 735 were habituals. The corresponding figures of the year preceding were 4,245 and 719. The habituals formed 17·20 per cent. of the convict admission, against 16·94 in 1938. Their conduct on the whole was satisfactory.

The concentration of incorrigible habituals in the Jails set apart for them was carried out as far as practicable, under the difficulties already pointed out.

21. *Education of Convicts.*—Of the 7 temporary teachers who were employed throughout the year in the larger jails of this province for imparting elementary instructions to prisoners of 30 years of age and under, three, who are attached to the Jails at Sylhet, Gauhati and Tezpur, have since been confirmed.

The working and the progress of the Jail Schools show a distinct improvement during the year under report. The officers of the Education Department also shared the same view.

Arrangements were also made in some of the jails for giving special training to prisoners and warders in "Ambulance" and "First-Aid".

22. *Aid on discharge.*—Monetary assistance was rendered to sixteen *ex*-convicts to enable them to purchase ploughing cattle or tools, etc., by the Assam Discharged Prisoners Aid Society and District Committees affiliated to it. A sum of Rs.489-7-0 was distributed for the purpose by the former and Rs.170-6-0 by the latter. It is reported that some of the District Societies were reorganised and reconstituted during the year with a view to achieving better results and stimulating interest in the welfare of discharged prisoners.

The question of the prevention of the sale of land belonging to convicts during their incarceration in Jails was referred to Government and is still under their consideration.

23. *Fetters.*—Fetters were imposed on 323 prisoners as a jail punishment, against 414 in the year preceding. Imposition of fetters for safe custody has been greatly restricted, but cannot be altogether abolished owing to the insecurity of certain jails and a lack of cellular accommodation.

24. *Statement C—Remission System.*—The number of convicts who came under the remission system declined from 1,973 in 1938 to 1,701 during the year under report. One convict failed to earn remission owing to continued bad conduct in jail. The maximum remission earned was 1,444 days by a convict in the Dhubri District Jail and the maximum gratuity of Rs.22-12-0 was earned by a convict in the Nowgong District Jail. Extra remission for special services was granted to 2,052 convicts, against 2,239 in 1938. Extra remission for continued good conduct was awarded to 815 convicts, against 968 in 1938.

The average remission in days gained by convicts for the periods "six months and not exceeding 5 years" was 55 and for all periods combined, 64. The corresponding figures for 1938 were 56 and 63, respectively.

The rules of the remission system are thoroughly understood by the prisoners and they greatly appreciate the privilege of being able to shorten their sentences by good work and conduct.

25. *Advisory Boards.*—The Advisory Board which held two meetings during the year, one at Sylhet and the other at Gauhati, for revision of long term sentences, recommended the premature release of 71 (63 unconditionally and 8

conditionally) and the Government sanctioned the release of 70 convicts (62 unconditionally and 8 conditionally). This system of revising long-term sentences exercises a beneficial effect on the prisoners' work and conduct.

The "Good Conduct Prisoners' Probational Release Act" has come into force during the year and one prisoner was released under Section 2 of the Act. The release of another convict under Section 2 of the Act could not be sanctioned by Government, as the person agreeing to take charge of the convict was a co-accused in the same case. In the absence, however, of a more respectable surety than the one offered, the case of the convict will be considered by the Advisory Board, as ordered by Government.

The Act, although it is in force, has not started full working as yet.

26. *Convict Officers.*—The total number employed as convict officers was 500, against 423 in 1938 and 432 in 1937. The number reduced or otherwise punished was 112, against 108 in 1938. The daily average number of convict officers employed was 274·22, against 275·30 in the previous year and their ratio per cent. to the total daily average number of convicts was 10·41, against 9·82 in 1938.

On the whole the general behaviour and conduct of the convict officers were satisfactory during the year.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS Nos.I X, XI TO XIII

27. *Statement No. IX Gross Expenditure.*—The gross expenditure in guarding and maintaining the prisoners during the year under report was Rs.4,06,586 (excluding as usual the out lay on jail buildings and repairs paid from the contingent grant of the Jail Department and the cost of forms), against Rs.3,97,968 in 1938 showing an increase of Rs.8,618, though the population was less by 88·40. The average cost per head of average strength rose from Rs.120-7-2 in 1938 to Rs.126-7-0 in the year under review.

The increase is mainly due to increased expenditure under the heads establishment charges, dietary charges, hospital charges, sanitation charges, charges for moving prisoners, charges for other miscellaneous services and supplies and travelling allowances, as explained under the respective heads of account.

The cost of original works and repairs met from the grant for "Works" of this Department was Rs.21,745-9-0, against Rs.27,804-10-9 in 1938.

28. *Establishment Charges.*—The total expenditure under this head was Rs.1,89,605 against Rs.1,86,677 in 1938, *i.e.*, an increase of Rs.2,928, which was mainly due to the periodical increments in the time scale of pay of jail establishment.

29. *Dietary charges.*—The expenditure under this head rose from Rs.1,15,382 in 1938, to Rs.1,23,098 during the year under report. The rise is due to increase in the rates of dietary articles. The cost per head of average strength was Rs.38-4-9, against Rs.34-15-5 in the previous year.

Fish was issued for consumption of prisoners in the Tezpur District Jail by obtaining a free supply from a Government bheel. The market value of this fish would have been Rs.1,207.

The question of improving the jail diet with the object of remedying deficiencies in essential constituents is under the consideration of Government as a result of representation made by the Inspector-General of Prisons based on an analysis of jail diets made by the Director of the Pasteur Institute and Medical Research Institute, Shillong.

Vegetables.—The value of vegetables and other garden produce issued to prisoners during the year under report from the jail gardens amounted to Rs.20,401-0-3, against Rs.21,351-14-0, and the amount realised by sale of surplus vegetables to the public was Rs.507-8-0, against Rs.490-15-3 in the year 1938. The expenditure incurred in purchasing vegetables from the market for prisoners' consumption amounted to Rs.4,117-9-0, against Rs. 3,641-6-3 in 1938.

30. *Hospital charges.*—The total expenditure under this head rose from Rs.14,758 in 1938, to Rs.16,358 during the year under report. The cost per head of average number of sick was Rs.212-5-9, against Rs.189-7-6. The increase in the total expenditure is mainly due to increased expenditure under the heads Sick Diet and extras for patients and medicines, hospital bedding, clothing, etc.

31. *Clothing aud bedding.*—The total cost under this head fell from Rs.20,736 in 1938 to Rs.15,598 during the year. The cost per head of average strength, excluding civil prisoners, was Rs.4-13-8, against Rs.6-4-6 in 1938.

32. *Sanitation charges.*—The expenditure under this head was Rs.3,716 against Rs.3,326 in 1938 showing a total increase of Rs.390. The rise is mainly due to increased expenditure under the heads "Charges for conservancy, cleansing and purifying" and "charges for water supply".

33. *Charges for moving prisoners,*—The charges for moving prisoners amounted to Rs,9,898 against Rs.9,281, and the average cost per head was Rs.3-1-3 against Rs. 2-12-11 in 1938.

34. *Miscellaneous Services and Supplies.*—The expenditure under this head was Rs.24,471 against Rs.23,047 in the preceding year showing a rise of Rs.1,424. The average cost per head was Rs.7-9-9, against Rs.6-15-7 in 1938. The rise in total expenditure is due to increased expenditure under the heads "lighting charges", "uniform and accoutrements of warders" and "other miscellaneous charges."

35. *Travelling Allowance.*—The total cost under this head slightly rose from Rs.4,513 in 1938 to Rs.4,732 during the year under review.

36. *Contingencies.*—The expenditure under this head was Rs.15,264, against Rs.15,109 in 1938 showing a slight increase of Rs.155.

37. *Extraordinary charges for livestock, tools and plant.*- The total expenditure under this head fell from Rs.5,139 in 1938 to Rs.3 ,846 during the year under report. The decrease is due to less expenditure under the heads conservancy and water supply dead stock, dietary dead stock, hospital dead stock, lighting dead stock, disciplinary dead stock and other miscellaneous dead-stock.

38. *Jail dairies.*—As in the previous year there are seven jail dairies in all. These are functioning satisfactorily. But the jail dairy at Nowgong was closed temporarily, and all the animals were sent to Khanapara Farm, as almost all of them were infected with Johne's disease.

The net profit in these dairies amounted to Rs.2,109-8-3, as detailed in the margin, against Rs,2,168-12-9 in 1938. These dairies continue to prove most useful and profitable and have ensured the supply of unadulterated milk for the sick and convalescent prisoners and where possible to local hospitals.

	Income			*Expenditure*			*Net profit*		
	Rs.	a.	p.	Rs.	a.	p.	Rs.	a.	p.
Silchar ..	993	4	6	753	10	3	239	10	3
Sylhet ..	1,241	5	9	1187	15	6	53	6	3
Gauhati ..	1,102	11	0	671	4	0	431	7	0
Tezpur ..	1,198	3	3	872	13	9	325	5	6
Nowgong ..	..			..			..		
Jorhat ..	1,293	13	6	571	15	9	721	13	9
Dibrugarh ..	737	0	6	399	3	0	337	13	6
Total..	6,566	6	6	4,456	14	3	2,109	8	3

39. *Statement No.XI Employment of Convicts.*—The daily average number of convicts under sentence of labour on working days was 2586·37, against 2756·25 in 1938, showing a decrease of 169·88. The percentages of convicts not employed owing to illness or other reasons, and employed on various forms of labour, during the two years of 1938 and 1939, are given below :—

	1938.	1939
(*a*) Sick	2·51	2·66
(*b*) Convalescent and infirm	4·88	5·31
(*c*) Not employed for other reasons	6·74	5·73
(*d*) On unremunerative Labour...	2·68	2·84
(*e*) Prison Officers	9·99	10·60
(*f*) Prison servants	22·46	26·41
(*g*) Gardening	7·76	8·92
(*h*) Preparing articles for consumption in Jails	11·79	10 29
(*i*) Jail repairs...	·68	·75
(*j*) Construction or addition and alterations of jail buildings.	2·50	·95
(*k*) Manufactures	27·96	25·51
(*l*) Public works	·05	·03
(*m*) Extramural employment under Municipalities and Departments of Government other than Public Works Department.	·00	·00
	100·00	100·00

Eleven per cent. of convincts under sentence of labour on working days, were employed as prison officers, 26 per cent. as prison servants and 26 per cent. on manufactures, against 10, 22 and 28, respectively, in 1938.

40. *Statement No. XII-A. Financial Results-General.*- The total amounts drawn from and paid into the treasury were Rs.62,632 and Rs.88,293, respectively, showing a cash profit of Rs.25,661, against Rs.21,403, in 1938. This shows an increase in cash profit which mainly accrues from the realisation of the dues outstanding from the previous year and also from the co-operation of other Government Departments and the public in purchasing jail manufactured articles. But the comparative decrease in cash profit due to the abolition of the system of oil pressing by convicts cannot be avoided unless some profitable industry is introduced in place of this.

The average cash earnings per head of convicts under sentence of labour on working days rose from Rs.7-12-0 in 1938 to Rs.9-15-0 in 1939 showing an increase of Rs.2-3-0 per head.

The largest cash earnings per head are shown by Sylhet (Rs.15-5-0), Jorhat (Rs.14-11-0), Tezpur (Rs.14-4-0), Kohima (Rs.12-2-0), Habiganj (Rs.9-8-0) and Aijal (Rs.7-15-0). Goods to the value of Rs.33,672 (actual cost of raw materials only) were supplied to the jails of Assam, against Rs.43,790 in 1938.

The value of goods supplied to other Government Departments rose from Rs.15,196 in 1938 to Rs.17,350, showing an increase of Rs.2,154. Sales to the public also rose from Rs.35,582 in 1938 to Rs.37,026 or an increase of Rs.1,444. The income, under this head, would have been much more had not the system of oil pressing by convicts been abolished.

The value of goods supplied to other Departments of Government and the public combined, amounted to Rs.54,376, against Rs.50,778 in 1938, showing an increase of Rs.3,598.

The receipts from extramural employment of prisoners amounted to Rs.239, against Rs.211 in 1938.

41. *Statement No. XII-A—Results of employment on manufactures and labour.*—The net profit amounted to Rs.18,429 and the average profit per head of prisoners sentenced to labour to Rs.7-12-0, against Rs.10,498 and Rs.3-13-0, respectively in the previous year.

The increase in the net profit is due mainly to the following reasons :—

(*i*) Larger sale of the manufactured articles.

(*ii*) Co-operation of other Government Departments and the public in purchasing jail-made articles.

(*iii*) Realisation of dues outstanding from the previous year.

This increase in net profit is satisfactory in view of the fact that in most of the smaller jails there is practically no income from the manufactory Department owing to no profitable industry having been found to take the place of the oil pressing industry which was abolished in all jails of the non-excluded areas. The fall in prison population is another factor leading to reduce profits.

Silchar.—This jail employed 3 per cent. of convicts under sentence of labour, on manufacture, against 6 per cent. in 1938. This decrease is due to the stoppage of bamboo and cane work on account of decreased demand for these articles. The cash profit amounted to Rs.628 and the average cash earnings per head to Rs.7, against Rs.417 and Rs.5-10-0, respectively, in 1938. The increase in cash profit is due to the greater demand for Chawkidari uniform during the year.

Sylhet.—The number of prisoners employed on manufactures was 39 per cent., against 38 per cent. in 1938. The cash earnings amounted to Rs.11,258 and the average cash earnings per head of prisoners to Rs.15-5-0, against Rs.7,867 and Rs.11, respectively, in 1938. The gratifying rise in the cash profit is mainly due to the fact that other Government Departments and the public placed larger orders for jail-made articles. The Superintendent and the Jail Staff are to be congratulated on this gratifying result. The cash earnings would have been still higher had not the system of oil pressing by convicts been abolished. This factor was responsible for a reduction in income of Rs.2,774—Rs.1,174 on account of reduced sales of oil to the public and Rs.1,600 recurring charges for the bullocks, which now have to be maintained.

Shillong.—Four per cent. of prisoners were employed on manufactures, against 2 per cent. in 1938. The cash earnings decreased from Rs.413 in 1938 to Rs.195

in 1939 and the average cash earnings per head of prisoners from Rs.11-7-0 to Rs.4-6-0. The fall in cash earnings here also is due to the fact that no suitable substitute for oil pressing has been introduced.

Gauhati.—The number of prisoners employed on manufactures was 30 per cent., against 32 per cent. in 1938. The cash earnings amounted to Rs.2,764 and the average earnings per head of prisoners to Rs.5-6-0 againgt a cash loss of Rs.960 in 1938. The increase is mainly due to the realisation of dues outstanding from the previous year.

Tezpur.—This jail employed 34 per cent. of convicts on manufactures, against 39 per cent. in 1938. The cash earnings amounted to Rs.4,984, against Rs.6,510 in 1938, showing a decrease of Rs.1,526 ; but the cash earnings per head of prisoners rose from Rs.14 in 1938 to Rs.14-4-0 in 1939. The decrease in the cash profit is mainly due to the fall in the average number of prisoners sentenced to labour from 464·78 to 349·56 and also due to a reduced demand for jail-made articles, which is evident from the fact that sales to the public decreased from Rs.3,931 in 1938 to 2,684 in 1939. The receipts from extramural employment of prisoners also fell from Rs.84 in 1938 to Rs.45 in 1939.

Nowgong.—Six per cent. of prisoners, under sentence of labour, were employed on manufactures, against 4 per cent. in 1938. The cash earnings and the average earnings per head of prisoners fell from Rs.604 and Rs.6-6-0 in 1938 to Rs.233 and Rs.2-8-0, respectively, in 1939. The decrease is due to the fact that no suitable substitute has been introduced in place of oil pressing by convicts.

Jorhat.—The number of prisoners, under sentence of labour, employed on manufactures was 20 per cent. against 27 per cent. in 1938. The cash earnings amounted to Rs.3,674, against Rs.997 in 1938, showing an increase of Rs.2,677. The average cash earnings per head of prisoners also rose from Rs.3-4-0 in 1938 to Rs.14-11-0 in 1939. This increase in the cash earnings is mainly due to the fact that the oil mills worked throughout the year under review, while these could not be put into operation for a portion of the previous year, and, secondly, that there were increased sales from the moonj industry of the manufactory department. The demand for jail made articles from other Government Departments and the public is one of the causes for these increase in the cash earnings. The Superintendent and the Jail Staff deserve credit for this rise in the cash profit.

Dibrugarh.—This jail employed only 9 per cent. of the prisoners, under sentence of labour on manufactures, against 16 per cent. in 1938. The cash earnings and the average cash earnings per head of prisoners fell from Rs.530 and Rs.3-14-0 in 1938 to Rs.442 and Rs.3-4-0, respectively, in 1939. The gradual decrease is due to reduced demand for jail manufactured articles and the abolition of the system of oil pressing by convicts.

42. *Statement No. XIII-Net cost of the Department.*—The net cost of maintaining the jails during the year amounted to Rs.3,80,925, against Rs.3,76,565, in 1938 and the average net cost per head of average strength to Rs.118-7-0, against Rs.113-8-0 in the previous year showing an increase of Rs.4,360 and Rs.4-15-0, respectively. The gross cost of maintenance rose from Rs.3,97,968 in 1938 to Rs.4,06,586 in 1939 and the gross average cost per head of average strength from Rs.120 in 1938 to Rs.126-7-0 in 1939, showing an increase of Rs.8,618 and Rs.6-7-0, respectively.

The following comparative statement shows the average cost of maintenance and the average cash earnings per head of average strength of prisoners in the jails during 1938 in certain provinces for which figures are available.

	Average cost of maintenance per head of prisoners			Average cash earnings per head of average strength		
	Rs.	a.	p.	Rs.	a.	p.
Bengal	145	4	0	20	11	0
Madras	125	1	0	13	0	0
Sind	115	8	0	12	5	0
Burma	105	15	0	17	5	0
North Western Frontier Province	133	1	0	7	8	0
Orissa	137	2	6	7	4	0
Assam	120	0	0	6	8	0

The average cash earnings per head of average strength in the jails of Assam was Rs.8 in 1939, against Rs.6-8-0 in 1938.

43. *Financial results in individual prisons.*—None of the jails shows any surplus. Drawals from the treasury amounted to Rs.62,632, against Rs.73,286 in 1938, while a sum of Rs.88,293 was paid into the treasury, including the value of supplies to jails and other Government Departments, against Rs.94,689 in the previous year.

Though the financial side of the jail industry has improved to some extent, the adverse effect caused by the abolition of the system of oil pressing by convicts still continues and can by no means be ignored ; it is extremely doubtful if any appreciable improvement in the finances of the manufactory department can be expected without introducing some profitable industry in place of oil-pressing by convicts. The question of introducing certain industries in the Jails of Assam, is still under the consideration of Government and it is hoped that the financial side of the manufactory department of the jails will improve appreciably if this scheme comes into operation.

The chief jail industries of the province are weaving, bamboo and cane works, carpentry, smithy, tailoring, carpet, net-bag, tat-bed making. Carpenters and Blacksmith are trained at Gauhati and Sylhet District Jails. The term of employment of the weaving instructor for the Sylhet District Jail has been extended by Government for a further period of one year. The improvement in the weaving industry of the Sylhet District Jail since the entertainment of the weaving instructor amply justifies the continuance of the post. The question of employing a weaving instructor at the Tezpur District Jail is still under consideration of Government and if it is sanctioned the Weaving Department of the Jail is expected to improve. All cotton clothing for the Jail in the Surma Valley is supplied from the Sylhet District Jail and that for the Assam Valley Jails is supplied from the Tezpur District Jail. All woollen clothing for all the jails in the province is supplied from the Sylhet District Jail as usual.

The value of supplies to other Government Departments rose from Rs.15,196 in 1938 to Rs.17,350 in 1939 showing an increase of Rs.2,154. This increase may be attributed partly to advertising Jail-made articles by circulation of the revised price-list of jail-made articles and also to the Government circular referred to in last year's report.

The experiment of employing convicts on conservancy work in lieu of extra remission instead of employing outside sweepers, is working satisfactorily.

I must acknowledge with thanks the co-operation of those Departments of Government and of the public who placed orders with the jails for jail made articles and I trust that they will continue their support in future and help to maintain the improvement in the jail industries.

I must also acknowledge with thanks the co-operation of the Director of Industries, Assam, and the interest he is taking in the jail industries.

VITAL STATISTICS

Statement No. XIV—Sickness and Mortality.

44. The following table gives particulars of the sickness and mortality rates among prisoners of all classes during the decennium ending with the year under report :—

Year		Daily avarage number of prisoners of all classes	Admission to hospital		Daily average sick of all classes		Deaths from all causes of all classes of prisoners		Provincial death rate
			Number of admission	Ratio per mille	Daily average sick	Ratio per mille	Total number of deaths	Ratio per mille	
1		2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1930	..	2,943·96	1,639	556·73	86·09	29·21	43	14·61	21·40
1931	..	2,331·39	2,176	653·18	110·91	33·29	66	19·81	18·68
1932	..	3,809·19	2,294	602·23	106·19	27·88	71	18·64	18·96
1933	..	3,804·[illegible]4	2,135	561·20	98·26	25·83	62	16·30	20·31
1934	..	4,008·53	2,122	529·37	87·21	21·75	58	14·47	19·64
1935	..	4013·67	1,992	496·30	92·64	23·08	87	21·68	21·41
1936	..	4018·87	1,686	419·52	92·34	22·97	57	14·18	19·63
1937	..	3,565·93	1.411	395·69	78·28	21·95	55	15·42	22·21
1938	..	3,304·12	1,155	349·56	77·89	23·57	64	19·37	22·42
1939	..	3,215·72	1,092	339·58	77·03	23·95	85	26·43	19·25

The comparison of the vital statistics of the year under review with those of the previous year does not show any favourable change. Although the number of admissions to hospital fell from 1,155 in 1938 to 1,092 in 1939, the number of deaths rose from 64 in 1938 to 85 in 1939. The District Jails at Sylhet, Gauhati, Dibrugarh and Tezpur alone account for 23, 22, 14 and 7 deaths, respectively.

The ratio per mille of average strength of admissions to hospital and the daily average sick fell from 349·56 and 77·89 in 1938 to 339·58 and 77·03 respectively, in 1939.

The percentages of prisoners of all classes admitted to jails in good, indifferent and bad health were 55, 39 and 6, respectively, against 53, 41 and 6, in the previous year.

In the Assam Valley Jails 32·37 per cent. of convicts admitted were habitual drug consumers and in the Surma Valley Jails 2·70 per cent. against 26·52 and 2·66 per cent. respectively, in 1938.

Mortality.

45. Seventy-nine out of the total of 85 deaths occurred among convicts and six among under-trials, against 60 and 4, respectively, in the previous year. The ratio of deaths per mille of average strength rose from 19·37 in 1938 to 26·43 in 1939.

	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939
Silchar	5	1	1	1	..
Sylhet	20	9	9	20	23
Shillong	2	..	3	..	..
Kohima	..	1	..	..	..
Aijal	..	..	..	..	..
Dhubri	2	1	..	1	3
Gauhati	26	17	19	16	22
Tezpur	9	4	9	13	7
Nowgong	4	1	2	1	..
Jorhat	7	8	5	7	4
Dibrugarh	5	5	5	1	14
Sunamganj	..	..	..	1	1
Karimganj	1	2	..	..	..
Habiganj	1	..	1	1	1
South Sylhet	3	1	..	..	..
Mangaldai	..	2	..	..	2
Sibsagar	..	3	..	1	4
Golaghat	2	..	..	1	3
North Lakhimpur ..	..	1	1	..	..
Tura	..	1	..	..	1
Total ..	87	57	55	64	85

The table in the margin shows the number of deaths in the various jails during the past quinquennium. The Jails at Silchar, Shillong, Kohima, Aijal, Nowgong, Karimganj, South Sylhet and North Lakhimpur returned clean mortality sheets.

The ratio of deaths per mille of average strength in the Assam Jails is 26·43, against the provincial death rate of 19·25.

United Provinces ..	7·40
Punjab	6·43
North West Frontier Province	3·53
Bengal	10·70
Central Provinces ..	15·07
Bombay	6·8
Madras	6·22
Sind	6·52
Behar	9·3
Burma	12·69

The death rates of other provincial jail departments are given in the margin for comparison.

46. *Silchar.*—This jail returned a clean mortality sheet, against one death among convicts in the previous year. There were 20 admissions to hospital, against 25 in the preceding year and the daily average number of sick fell from 2·02 in 1938 to 1·09 in 1939.

47. *Sylhet.*—There were 23 deaths among convicts, against 20 in the same class of prisoners in 1938. Of these deaths, 7 were due to Pulmonary Tuberculosis, 5 due to Dysentery, 4 due to other tubercular diseases, 2 to Enteric fever and one each to Influenza, Malaria, Pneumonia, *Kala azar* and Oedema of lungs. Of the 23 prisoners who died, 2 were admitted in bad health (one died within 2 months of his admission to jail) and 12 in indifferent health (one of whom died within 10 days of his admission).

The number of admissions to hospital and the daily average sick rose from 106 and 21·68 in 1938 to 116 and 26·90, respectively, in 1939. The increase is mainly due to the admission of a large number of Influenza cases into hospital. The ratio of deaths per mille of average strength rose from 26·84 in 1938 to 28·79 in 1939.

48. *Shillong.*—This jail returned a clean mortality sheet as in the previous year. The number of admissions to hospital and the daily average sick rose slightly from 8 and ·46 in 1938 to 12 and ·73, respectively, in 1939.

49. *Kohima.*—This jail also returned a clean mortality sheet as in the previous year. There was no admission to hospital in this jail.

50. *Dhubri.*— Three deaths occurred in this jail among prisoners undertrial, against one death among convicts in the previous year. Of these three deaths, one was due to Pneumonia, one due to Chronic Malaria and one to *Kala azar*. One

of the prisoners who died, was admitted to jail in good health, but died 16 days after his admission. The other two prisoners were admitted in bad health (one died 3 days after his admission).

The number of admissions to hospital and the daily average sick rose from 46 and 2·13 in 1938 to 69 and 3·80, respectively, in 1939.

51. *Gauhati.*—Twenty-one deaths among convicts (including one female) and one death among under-trials occurred in this jail, against 16 among convicts only in the previous year. Of these, 8 were due to Dysentery, 4 due to Pneumonia, 2 due to Anaemia, 2 to cerebral Hæmorrhage, and one each to Rheumatic fever, Neuritis, Apoplexy, Chronic Bronchitis, Pulmonary Tuberculosis and Intestinal obstruction. Of the prisoners who died, 10 were admitted to jail in indifferent health [2 died within 6 months of their admission and one (under-trial) within a fortnight of his admission], and the rest were admitted in good health.

The number of admissions to hospital and the daily average sick rose from 258 and 13·59 in 1938 to 287 and 14·84, respectively, in 1939. As in the past, this jail recorded the highest number of admissions to hospital during the year in the jails of the province, and the large number of admissions was mainly due to Dysenstery which alone accounted for 162 admissions, against 165 in 1938. The number of admissions under Dysentery is still unduly high and the death rate on account of this disease is alarming. The conditions believed to be responsible for the prevalence of Dysentery in the Gauhati Jail and which have been referred to in previous reports are still unaltered. The ratio of deaths per mille of average strength rose from 27·34 in 1938 to 39·74 in 1939.

52. *Tezpur.*—This jail recorded 7 deaths (six among convicts and one among under-trials), against 12 deaths among convicts in 1938. Of these, 2 were due to Anaemia, and one each to Chronic Malaria, Tuberculosis of lungs, Pneumonia, Tape worms and acute Nephritis. Of the deceased prisoners, one was admitted to jail in a bad state of health and died within 3 months of his admission. Five prisoners were admitted in indifferent health (one died within 10 days of his admission and another within 3 months).

The number of admissions to hospital and the daily average sick fell from 163 and 9·98 in 1938 to 161 and 8·75 respectively, in 1939.

53. *Jorhat.*—Four deaths occurred in this jail among convicts, against seven in the same class of prisoners in the previous year. Two of the convicts died of Anaemia and one each of Pneumonia and *Kala-azar.*

There was an appreciable fall in the number of admissions to hospital and the daily average number of sick in this jail, *viz.*, 45 and 3·22 against 158 and 12·49, respectively, in 1938.

54. *Dibrugarh.*—This jail recorded 14 deaths (13 among convicts and 1 among under-trials), against one among convicts in the previous year. Of these deaths, 6 were due to Dysentery, 2 to Pneumonia, 2 to Anaemia, 2 to Asthma, one to Pulmonary Tuberculosis and one (under-trial) to Cardiac Insufficiency. Ten of the deceased prisoners were admitted to jail in bad health and 3 in indifferent health (all died within 2 months of their admission).

The number of admissions to hospital and the daily average number of sick rose from 189 and 9·06 in 1938 to 223 and 10·51, respectively, in 1939. The ratio of deaths per mille of average strength showed an extraordinary increase from 4·89 in 1938 to 63·80 in 1939. One cannot avoid the conclusion that this unprecedented increase in the number of deaths in this jail is to be connected with the enforced abstinence from opium as a result of the Prohibition Act, since a number of opium addicts in an extreme state of Anaemia and Debility were admitted to jail. This is the highest death rate recorded in this jail for some years.

55. *Sunamganj.*—One convict died of Bronchial Asthma, against the one death among under-trials in 1938. The number of admissions to hospital and the daily average number of sick declined from 20 and ·59 in 1938 to 5 and ·18, respectively, in 1939.

56. *Mangaldai.*—Two convicts died of Pneumonia, against none in the previous year. Both were admitted to jail in indifferent health and died within 2 months of their admission.

The number of admissions to hospital fell from 42 in 1938 to 33 in 1939, but the daily average number of sick rose from ·90 in 1938 to 1·03 in 1939.

57. *Sibsagar.*—This jail recorded 4 deaths among convicts, against one among female convicts in the preceding year. Of these deaths, one each was due to Chronic Bronchitis, Pulmonary Tuberculosis, Erysipelas and Cirrhosis of liver.

The number of admissions to hospital fell from 19 in 1938 to 12 in 1939, but the daily average number of sick rose from ·40 in 1938 to ·92 in 1939.

58. *Golaghat.*—There were 3 deaths among convicts, against one among under-trials in the previous year. Two of the deceased prisoners were admitted to jail in a bad state of health and died of Pulmonary Tuberculosis and Nephritis, respectively, within a month of their admission. The third was admitted in indifferent health and died of Nephritis within two months of his admission.

The number of admissions to hospital and the daily average sick rose from 4 and ·08 in 1938 to 11 and 1·19, respectively, in 1939.

59. *Habiganj and Tura.*—One convict died in each of these jails, against one convict in the Habiganj Jail and none in the Tura Jail in the previous year. In both the jails the prisoners were admitted in good health and death was due to Dysentery in each case.

The number of admissions to hospital in the Habiganj Jail fell from 19 in 1938 to 8 in 1939, while that in the Tura Jail remained the same (6 in 1938 and 6 in 1939).

60. *Sickness and Mortality among Convicts.*—The daily average number of convicted prisoners showed a decline from 2,804·73 in 1938 to 2,634·45 in 1939. There were 894 cases of admissions to hospital giving a daily average of 68·65 against 954 and 70·14, respectively, in 1938. Seventy-nine deaths occurred among this class of prisoners, against 60 in the previous year.

61. *Sickness and Mortality among under-trial, civil and State prisoners—Under-trials.*—The daily average number of under-trial prisoners rose from 495·52 in 1938 to 579·56 in 1939. The number admitted to hospital and the daily average number of sick were 198 and 8·38 against 201 and 7·75, respectively, in 1938. There were six deaths, against four in the previous year.

Civil Prisoners.—The daily average number of this class of prisoners was 1·24, against 1·91 in 1938. As in the previous year there were neither admissions to hospital nor deaths during the year under report.

State Prisoners.—Two State prisoners were confined in the Aijal Jail during the first part of the year under report, giving a daily average of ·17, against 1·96 in 1938. There was no admission to hospital nor was there any death during the year.

62. The following table shows the number of admissions to hospital and the deaths among convicts against the principal diseases, during the past four years:—

Disease	1936		1937		1938		1939	
	Admissions	Deaths	Admissions	Deaths	Admissions	Deaths	Admissions	Deaths
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Dysentery	305	7	310	14	264	13	294	21
Malarial Fever ..	253	1	205	..	159	1	182	2
Pulmonary Tuberculosis..	52	14	27	10	87	12	34	12
Pneumonia	55	7	44	10	44	12	34	10
Ankylostomiasis ..	15	..	20	4	15	5	3	..
Diarrhoea	6	..	4	..	7	1	3	..

63. *Dysentery.*—The number of admissions to hospital and deaths due to Dysentery rose from 264 and 13 in 1938 to 294 and 21, respectively, in 1939. Cases occurred in all jails except Kohima, Aijal and Golaghat. The highest incidence of this disease with the largest number of deaths was at Gauhati (153 cases and 8 deaths, aginst 151 and 5, respectively, in 1938). A large number of admissions

to hospital from this disease also occurred in the jails at Sylhet (18 admissions and 5 deaths), Tezpur (30 admissions and no death) and Dibrugarh (56 admissions and 6 deaths).

64. *Malaria.*—The incidence of this disease showed an increase in the numbers of admissions, *viz.*, 182 cases, against 159 in 1938. There were 2 deaths against 1 death in the previous year. The highest number of admissions was at Tezpur (42 cases and 1 death). The jails at Dhubri, Gauhati, Jorhat and Dibrugarh recorded 25, 26, 15 and 21 admissions to hospital respectively for this disease.

65. *Pulmonary Tuberculosis.*—There were 34 admissions and 12 deaths from this disease during the year under report, against 37 admissions and the same number of deaths in the previous year. Nineteen of these cases and seven deaths occurred in the Sylhet District Jail in which the majority of the cases throughout the Province are concentrated for treatment. Four cases with no death occurred in the Dhubri Jail, while two cases with one death occurred in each of the jails at Gauhati, Tezpur and Dibrugarh.

66. *Pneumonia.*—There were 34 cases of admission to hospital and 10 deaths from this disease during the year under report, against 44 admissions and 12 deaths in the previous year. Six cases with one death occurred in each of the jails at Sylhet and Tezpur, whilst six cases with three deaths and seven cases with two deaths occurred in the jails at Gauhati and Dibrugarh, respectively.

67. *Ankylostomiasis.*—As in the previous years Hookworm investigation was systematically carried out in all jails, as a matter of routine, and infected cases were treated until a cure was effected. The number of cases examined was 1,835, and of these 171, or 9·32 per cent. were found to be infected, as against 167, or 7·17 per cent. in 1938. The number admitted to hospital was 3 only. There was no death as compared with 15 admissions and 5 deaths in the previous year.

68. *Diarrhoea.*—The number of admissions to hospital on account of this disease was 3 against 7 in the previous year. The cases occured in the jails at Jorhat and Dibrugarh (one and two cases, respectively). There was no death from this disease during the year.

69. *Release on account of sickness.*—One convict from the Sylhet District Jail was released on account of sickness, under rule 568(*c*) of the Assam Jail Manual, Volume I. Information as to whether this individual is alive or not is not available.

70. *Statement No. XVII—Mortality according to periods of sentence undergone.*—Of the seventy-nine convicts who died during the year, 32 died within six months of admission, 7 after serving six to 12 months' sentence, 14 between one to two years, 10 between two to three years, 10 between three to seven years and 6 after serving over seven years' sentence.

71. *Statement B—Condition of convicts released from jail.*—The condition of convicts discharged from jails during the year is shown in Statement B.

The following table shows the percentages of convicts who gained or lost weight during the past 4 years:—

—	1936	1937	1938	1939
1	2	3	4	5
Neither gained nor lost weight	28·25	27·97	27·87	28·87
Gained weight	58·61	56·25	57·31	57·01
Lost weight	13·14	15·78	14·82	14·12

72. *Sanitary Improvements.*—At Silchar, the hollow space underneath the berths of male barracks was closed and this has considerably reduced the trouble from bugs. The tank in which drinking water is stored, has been connected with a pipe to avoid unnecessary handling of water by prisoners. At Sylhet, the work of fitting a pump and connecting it with the Dhopa Dighi has been completed, and now the conservancy and sanitation works are being carried out satisfactorily. At Sunamganj, construction of *pucca* drains, installation of a tube well and recementing

of the floors of all the barracks were the improvements during the year. At Karimganj, six bathing cubicles were constructed. At Habiganj, *pucca* drains leading to the Municipal drain were constructed on the eastern side of the jail. At South Sylhet, a pumping machine on the tank was installed.

73. *Overcrowding.*—Overcrowding in the Jails of Assam is due not to insufficient total accommodation but to difficulties in distribution. Several of the smaller jails are constantly overcrowded, whilst most of the larger jails, admitting long term and habitual prisoners, have plenty of room. Much of this overcrowding is due to delay in bringing undertrials to trial and to prevalence of admitted appeals and the long time which frequently elapses before the appeal is heard.

Gauhati and Dibrugarh were the only larger jails which were overcrowded. In the Gauhati Jail overcrowding lasted only for 36 days, while at Dibrugarh it persisted for the latter half of the year. The jails at Dhubri, Sunamganj, Habiganj, Golaghat and North Lakhimpur were overcrowded for a considerable period of the year and those at Karimganj and Mangaldai remained overcrowded throughout the year. In the South Sylhet Jail there was overcrowding almost throughout the year.

MISCELLANEOUS AND CONCLUDING REMARKS

74. *Religious Instructors.*—As in the previous year thirteen jails in this province had religious instructors appointed for them and the visits paid by them in each of these jails are shown below:—

	Silchar	Sylhet	Shillong	Dhubri	Gauhati	Tezpur	Nowgong	Jorhat	Dibrugarh	Sunamganj	Karimganj	Sibsagar	Golaghat
Hindu	51	53	2	..	45	23*	52	48	39	34	..	..	19
Muslim	56	55	21	..	18	15	53	50	35	36	38	10	23

* Christian religious instructor also paid 2 visits to the Jail.

Shillong.—The question of substituting the present Hindu Instructor has already been taken up.

Dhubri.—Neither the Hindu nor the Muslim Instructor paid any visit at all. Suitable substitutes should be appointed in their places.

Karimganj and Sibsagar.—No Hindu religious instructors were appointed for these jails during the year.

Sylhet and Aijal.—Local Christian Missionaries delivered moral lectures to the prisoners of these jails.

All possible facilities were afforded to prisoners to attend the lectures delivered by the religious instructors on moral and religious subjects.

75. *Jail Libraries.*—A recurring grant of Rs.300 was allotted for the improvement of the jail libraries. The grant at present sanctioned is at the rate of As. 0/14/6 per 100 prisoners. This is considered insufficient to maintain an adequate number of suitable books for literate prisoners. The grant in Bengal is at the rate of Rs.5 per 100 prisoners and the Conference of Inspectors-General of Prisons recommended that it should be Rs.10 per annum per 100 prisoners, in view of the fact that increasing importance is now being attached to the provision of books to enable literate prisoners to make rational and beneficial use of their leisure time.

76. *Expenditure on Jail Buildings.*—The amount spent by the Public Works Department on jail buildings during the year was Rs.22,912 against Rs.35,050 in the previous year.

Out of a grant of Rs.7,500 for minor works during the year, a sum of Rs.7,220 was utilised for works of imperative urgency and the balance of Rs.280 was spent on completing works of the preceding year. Funds provided for minor works during the year under report were not sufficient to meet the requirements of the Department and many urgent projects of imperative necessity have had to be postponed.

The Departmental grant for petty construction was Rs.14,000. The whole amount was allotted for petty works of which the following are mentioned as being the more important ones:—

	Rs.	a.	p.
(1) Construction of a dispensary block and an isolation ward in the Jorhat District Jail.	3,626	0	0
(2) Construction of two sets of married warders' quarters in the Jorhat District Jail.	1,609	0	0
(3) Construction of a *pucca* drain to take cook house sullage towards the river in the Tezpur District Jail.	1,103	0	0
(4) Construction of a female ward with day and night cage latrines and bathing platform for the same in the Sibsagar District Jail.	1,536	0	0
(5) Construction of cage latrines in wards Nos. 3, 5 and 6 of the Nowgong District Jail.	500	0	0

77. *Statement A—Accommodation.*—The total accommodation in the jails of the province at the end of the year was for 4,175 prisoners—a net increase of 4 on the previous year's figure (4,171). The increase is due to the construction of an extramural annexe for female prisoners in the Sunamganj District Jail. Formally there was no separate female ward in that jail and accommodation for 3 female prisoners was made in a corner of the male barrack. The construction of the female annexe with accommodation for four female prisoners has resulted in the increase of additional accommodation for 1 female and for 3 male prisoners.

78. *Provincial Statement A—Visits.*—The total number of visits paid by official and non-official visitors during the year under report was 6,051 against 5,798 in 1938. His Excellency the Governor visited the District Jails at Sylhet, Kohima, Tezpur, Habiganj and North Lakhimpur. The Hon'ble Minister-in-charge of Jails visited the District Jails at Sylhet, Dhubri, Gauhati (twice), Tezpur (thrice), Nowgong (twice) Jorhat (twice), Sibsagar, Golaghat and Tura. The total visits made by the Commissioner of Divisions to the jails was 19. Almost all the jails were visited by him.

The District Officers and Civil Surgeons paid 89 and 52 visits respectively, within their districts in their capacity as *ex-officio* visitors. The Visiting Boards paid 71 visits and the individual members of such boards, 127. The total number of visits paid by the lady visitors was 33.

79. *Inspections.*—The Inspector-General of Prisons, Assam, visited and inspected the District Jails at Sylhet, Shillong, Gauhati (twice), Tezpur, Nowgong, Jorhat, Dibrugarh, Sunamganj, Habiganj (twice), South-Sylhet and Mangaldai.

80. *Conduct of Jail Establishment.*—The total strength of permanent warders rose from 326 to 336 in the year under report, the increase being due to ten additional warders newly sanctioned by the Government. The above strength includes 12 female warders and 15 male warders attached to the Magistrates' Lock-Ups at Hailakandi, Barpeta and Goalpara.

The number of warders punished during the year was 138, against 117 in 1938. Three were dismissed, 57 were fined, 78 punished otherwise, against nil, 47 and 70 respectively in the previous year. The conduct of the warder staff was on the whole satisfactory.

As stated in the report for the year 1938 the departmental training of jail staff in drill and musketry was far from satisfactory. With the object of improving the situation arrangements have been made with the Police Department for the training of the Jailers Staff and Warders under the Armed Police at District Headquarters at the ordinary times for parade and it is believed that this practice is having beneficial results.

A new scheme was submitted to Government for an increase in the strength of male warders for ordinary watch and ward in proportion to the jail population and in order to reduce the hours of duty, which now exceed 10 in 24 hours and to allow a reasonable number of full nights in bed per week. It was stressed that at least 20 more warders were urgently and indispensably necessary. Government have since sanctioned the entertainment of 10 additional warders only and whilst this has given some relief to the warder staff the necessity for 10 more warders is keenly felt. It is hoped that Government will take early action in the matter.

81. *General features of the year.*—The salient features of the year are :—

(1) A fall in the daily average number confined ; but a rise in the number of admissions.

(2) An increase in the number of admissions of male and a decrease in that of female convicted prisoners.

(3) An increase in the daily average number of undertrials and a slight increase in their average period of detention.

(4) A decrease in the number of convicts sentenced to simple imprisonment.

(5) A decrease in the number of juveniles admitted.

(6) A slight increase in the number of admissions of previously convicted prisoners.

(7) An increase in the number of escapes from custody.

(8) A decrease in the number of offences and punishments.

(9) A complete absence of corporal punishment for jail offences.

(10) The training of selected prisoners in "Ambulance" and "First Aid".

(11) The continued employment of paid teachers for the education of convicts and three of the employees were confirmed.

(12) A decrease in the number of prisoners released under the remission system.

(13) The continued successful working of the Advisory Board Scheme for premature release.

(14) Assistance given by the Discharged Prisoners' Aid Society to *ex*-convicts.

(15) An increase in the total expenditure and average cost per head.

(16) A slight decrease in the profit for jail diaries.

(17) A rise in the average cash earnings.

(18) A rise in the sale of manufactured articles to the public.

(19) An increase in the supply of manufactured articles to other Departments of Government.

(20) A rise in the net profit of the Manufacture Department.

(21) An increase in the total number of deaths and in the ratio of deaths per mille.

(22) A fall in the total number of admissions to hospitals.

(23) Arrangement has been made with the Police Department for the training of Jailers staff and Warders in squad drill and musketry.

(24) The strength of warders staff has been increased by 10 additional warders.

(25) Government have accorded sanction to the publication in the *Assam Gazette* of notifications relating to the appointment, promotion, posting and leave of Jailers.

82. *Detenus.*—There was no detenu confined in jail at the beginning of the year and none were admitted during the year.

83. *Appointment of Subdivisional Medical Officers as Superintendent of Jails at Subdivisional Headquarters.*—The arrangement of holding the combined administrative and medical charges of the jails at Subdivisional Headquarters by the Subdivisional Medical Officers has continued to work satisfactorily.

84. *Conduct of Officers.*—The general standard of work and conduct of jail officials has been uniformly good during the year.

At Sylhet Jail, the keenest interest in the manufacturing side has always been taken by the Superintendent, Lieutenant Colonel E. R. Daboo, I.M.S., and the jail staff. During the year under report this has resulted in a very gratifying increase in the cash profit, which reflects great credit on all concerned.

Government orders regarding publication in the *Assam Gazette* of notifications relating to the appointment, promotion, posting and leave of Jailers have been appreciated.

It has been strongly represented that the status of Jailer should be raised to that of Gazetted rank, and there is much force in this representation. Indeed this reform was strongly recommended by the Indian Jails Committee of 1919-20. The heavy responsibilities and multifarious duties of these officers and the paramount importance of maintaining discipline among the subordinate staff and the prisoners, undoubtedly demand that these men should be granted a status and position which Gazetted rank alone can give. It is both anomalous and undesirable that they should rank with their subordinates.

Head Office.—The Office of the Inspector-General has carried out the routine work with its customary efficiency under the general supervision of Dr. D. Hazarika, my Personal Assistant. In the compilation of this report the work of the Assistant in the Jails Branch, Babu Rasik Chandra De, has as always, been invaluable and Maulvi Md. Habibullah has also given valuable assistance.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

L. A. P. ANDERSON,

Lt.-Colonel, I.M.S.,
Inspector-General of Prisons, Assam.

General Summary.

Showing the Distribution of the Prisoners of all classes confined in the Jails of Assam during the year 1939.

1	2			3			4			5			6			7			8		
Classes of prisoners	Remained at the commencement of the year			Received during the year			Total			Discharged from all causes			Remaining at the end of the year			Daily average number of each class			Total daily average of whole Jail		
	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total
Total: Convicts ..	2,590	33	2,623	5,859	93	5,952	8,449	126	8,575	5,790	97	5,887	2,659	29	2,688	2,604·81	29·64	2,634·45			
Total: Under-trial ..	532	3	535	7,758	139	7,897	8,290	142	8,432	7,618	131	7,749	672	11	683	570·57	8·99	579·56			
Total: Civil	1	..	1	15	..	15	16	..	16	16	..	16	..	..	..	1·24	..	1·24	3,177·09	38·63	3,215·72
Total: State	2	..	2	2	..	2	4	..	4	4	..	4	..	..	..	·47	..	·47			
Total	3,125	36	3,161	13,634	232	13,866	16,759	268	17,027	13,428	228	13,656	3,331	40	3,371	3,177·09	38·63	3,215·72	..	..	..
Total for 1938: Convicts ..	2,861	30	2,891	5,859	124	5,933	8,720	154	8,874	6,130	121	6,251	2,590	33	2,623	2,770·50	34·23	2,804·73			
Total for 1938: Under-trial ..	459	9	468	7,136	124	7,260	7,595	133	7,728	7,063	130	7,193	532	3	535	487·73	7·79	495·52			
Total for 1938: Civil	..	..	..	20	..	20	20	..	20	19	..	19	1	..	1	1·91	..	1·91	3,262·10	42·02	3,304·12
Total for 1938: State	2	..	2	2	..	2	4	..	4	2	..	2	2	..	2	1·96	..	1·96			
Total for 1938 ..	3,322	39	3,361	13,017	248	13,265	16,339	287	16,626	13,214	251	13,465	3,125	36	3,161	3,262·10	42·02	3,304·12	..	..	..

STATEMENT No.I.—(JUDICIAL)—

Showing the number and disposal of the Convicts in the

	1		2		3		4					
							Received by					
							A					
							To undergo sentence					
	Remained at the close of the previous year		Imprisoned during the present year		Total		From jails in the province		From subsidiary jails to district jails in the province		From jails outside the province	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Total ..	2,590	33	4,203	70	6,793	103	1,619	23	..	..	37	..
Total for 1938 ..	2,861	30	4,157	88	7,018	118	1,672	36	..	..	30	..

STATEMENT No.I.—(JUDICIAL)—

Showing the number and disposal of the Convicts in the

	7										8		9	
	Released du ing the year													
	A		B		C		D							
							By order of Government							
							(*a*)		(*b*)					
	On appeal		On expiry of sentence		Under remission rules		On account of sickness		On other grounds		Transported beyond seas		Transferred to lunatic asylum	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Total ..	430	7	1,749	53	1,690	11	1	..	91	1	..	..	5	..
Total for 1938 ..	420	4	1,784	67	1,962	11	3	..	113	1	..	..	9	..

(For Convicts only)

Jails of Assam during the year 1939.

transfer				5			6				
B				Grand Total			Transferred to other jails				
In transit for transportation or to other jails							A		B		
From jails in the province		From jails outside the province					To undergo sentence		For transportation beyond seas, etc.		
M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	M.	F.	
..	..	..	..	8,449	126	8,575	1,706	24	36	..	Total.
..	..	..	..	8,720	154	8,874	1,776	36	3	..	Total for 1938.

(For Convicts only)—*concld.*

Jails of Assam during the year 1939—concld.

10		11		12		13		14			
Escaped but not recaptured		Executed		Died		Remaining at the end of the present year		Daily average number			
M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	Total	
2	..	2	..	78	1	2,659	29	2,604·81	29·64	2,634·45	Total.
..	..	2	..	58	2	2,590	33	2,770·50	34·23	2,804·73	Total for 1938.

STATEMENT No. II.—

Showing the Religion, Age, state of Education and previous occupation of the Convicts

	1 Religion													
	A Christian						B		C		D		E	
	a Europeans		b Eurasians		c Indians		Muslims		Hindus and Sikhs		Buddhists and Jains		All other classes	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.*	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Total ..	1	..	..	..	22	..	1,836	9	2,078	40	2	..	264	21
Total for 1938	1	..	..	..	23	..	1,627	8	2,263	€9	4	..	239	11

STATEMENT No. II.—

Showing the Religion, Age, state of Education and previous occupation of the Convicts

	3 Education				Previous			
					Males			
	A Literate		B Illiterate		A	B	C	D
	M.	F.	M.	F.	Persons employed under Government or municipal or other local authorities	Professional persons	Persons in service or performing personal office	Persons engaged in agriculture and with animals
Total ..	80	..	4,123	70	22	29	859	2,978
Total for 1938	106	..	4,051	88	33	107	776	2,959

(JUDICIAL)—FOR CONVICTS ONLY

admitted into the Jails of Assam during the year 1939.

2												
Age												
A		B		C		D		E		F		
Under sixteen years		Sixteen to twenty-one years		Twenty-two to thirty years		Thirty-one to forty years		Forty-one to sixty years		Above sixty years		
M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	
10	..	283	8	1,895	25	1,159	20	783	14	73	3	Total.
18	..	276	12	1,903	24	1,190	19	709	31	61	2	Total for 1938.

(JUDICIAL)—FOR CONVICTS ONLY—*concld.*

admitted into the Jails of Assam during the year 1939—concld.

4							5			
occupation							Total			
			Females							
E	F	G	H	I	J	K				
Persons engaged in commerce and trade	Persons engaged in mechanical arts, and manufactures, and engineering operations, etc., etc.	Miscellaneous persons not classed otherwise	Married	Unmarried	Widows	Prostitutes	M.	F.	Total	
72	57	186	40	4	24	2	4,203	70	4,273	Total,
51	45	186	61	2	25	..	4,157	88	4,245	Total for 1938,

STATEMENT No. III.—

Showing the Convicts admitted into the Jails of Assam during the year 1939 and those

	1	2											
		Number according to											
		A		B		C		D		E		F	
	Nature of imprisonment of those admitted as explained at foot	Not exceeding one month		Above one month, and not exceeding three months		Above three months, and not exceeding six months		Above six months, and not exceeding one year		Above one year, and not exceeding two years		Above two years, and not exceeding five years	
		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Total	A	91	1	15	1	6	2	12	..	..	..	..	..
	B	470	13	1,096	25	1,170	22	721	4	302	..	212	..
	C	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..
	D	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	7	..
Total of admissions ..	..	561	14	1,111	26	1,176	24	733	4	304	..	219	..
Total remaining on the 31st December, 1939.	..	69	2	211	3	721	9	393	1	373	..	451	3
Total for 1938 ..	A	121	2	28	2	6	..	6	..	..	..	..	..
	B	479	16	995	40	1,185	18	715	4	335	2	168	1
	C	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	D	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total of admissions ..	..	600	18	1,023	42	1,191	18	721	4	335	2	168	1
Total remaining on the 31st December, 1938.	..	46	..	281	9	406	7	356	2	473	1	581	3

A.—Prisoners sentenced to
B.— Ditto ditto
C.— Ditto ditto
D.— Ditto ditto

STATEMENT No IV.—(JUDICIAL)—

Showing the Convicts admitted into the Jails of Assam during the year 1939

	1			2									3	
				A			B			C			A	
	Number admitted direct during the year			Number in column 3 identified as 'habituals' before conviction and classified as such by the convicting court			Number in column 3 classified as 'habituals' by the District Magistrate or Magistrate specially empowered (not being the convicting Court)			Number in column 3 classified as 'habituals' by the Jail Superintendent			Number imprisoned for the first time in default of finding security under section 110, Criminal Procedure Code	
	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.
Total ..	4,203	70	4,273	730	4	734	..	..	..	1	..	1	280	..
Total for 1938..	4,157	88	4,245	715	3	718	..	..	..	1				

(JUDICIAL)—(FOR CONVICTS ONLY)

remaining on the 31st December of that year, according to the nature and length of sentence.

length of sentence										3			
G		H		I				J		Total			
Above five years, and not exceeding ten years		Exceeding ten years		Sentenced to transportation beyond seas				Sentenced to death					
				a For life		b For a term							
M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	Total	
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	124	4	128	Total.
60	2	5	..	25	..	..	..	8	..	4,069	66	4,135	
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	
1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	9	..	9	
61	2	5	..	25	..	..	..	8	..	4,203	70	4,273	Total of admissions.
268	1	17	..	154	10	1	..	1	..	2,659	29	2,688	Total remaining on the 31st December, 1939.
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	161	4	165	Total for 1938.
74	2	11	1	29	..	1	..	4	..	3,996	84	4,080	
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
74	2	11	1	29	..	1	..	4	..	4,157	88	4,245	Total of admissions.
204	..	24	..	218	11	1	..	..	..	2,590	33	2,623	Total remaining on the 31st December, 1938.

simple imprisonment.
rigorous ditto.
ditto ditto with solitary confinement.
ditto ditto with whipping.

(FOR CONVICTS ONLY)

who had been previously convicted.

3								4			5						
B						C					Youthful offenders under 15 years of age (Reformatory Schools Act, VIII of 1897)						
Number imprisoned in default of finding security under section 110 of the Criminal Procedure Code, or convicted under Chapters XII, XVI, XVII and XVIII of the Indian Penal Code, with previous convictions under any of those chapters or under section 110 of the Criminal Procedure Code						Total		Ratio per cent. of column 3 (c) to column 1			A			B			
Once previously convicted		Twice previously convicted		More than twice previously convicted							Number admitted during the year			Number previously convicted			
M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F	Total	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total	
338	4	39	..	74	..	731	4	17	6	17	6	..	6	1	..	1	Total
345	2	64	1	111	..	716	3	17	3	17	10	..	10	3	..	3	Total for 1938.

STATEMENT No. V.—(JUDICIAL)—(FOR CONVICTS ONLY)

Showing the escapes and recaptures of Convicts in the Jails of Assam, during the year 1939.

(Abolished under the orders of the Government of India.)

STATEMENT No. VI

STATEMENT No VI—

Showing the offences committed by the Convicts and the Punishments

	1	2	3										4
			Offences dealt with by Superintendents										
			Relating to work		Relating to prohibited articles		Relating to assaults, mutiny and escapes		All other breaches of Jail rules		Total		
	Daily average population	Offences dealt with by criminal courts	Dealt with by minor punishments	Dealt with by major punishments	Dealt with by minor punishments	Dealt with by major punishments	Dealt with by minor punishments	Dealt with by major punishments	Dealt with by minor punishments	Dealt with by major punishments	Dealt with by minor punishments	Dealt with by major punishments	By criminal courts.
.	2,634·45	2	127	21	148	103	83	60	335	95	693	279	2
r	2,804·73	4	101	24	163	97	94	46	431	114	789	281	4

(JUDICIAL)—(FOR CONVICTS ONLY)

inflicted on them, in the Jails of Assam during the year 1939.

5						6							7	8	
Punishments Inflicted															
By Superintendents															
Minor						Major									
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)			
Warnings	Penal diet	Separate, cellular and solitary confinement	Handcuffing and link fetters	Other punishments	Total	Separate, cellular and solitary confinement	Penal diet with solitary confinement	Fetters and handcuffing behind or to a staple	Corporal punishments	Combination of minor punishments	Other punishments	Total	Grand total of punishments	Ratio of column 5 *f* to column 1	
156	9	10	183	335	693	6	1	140	..	4	128	279	974	26·31	10·
208	1	2	268	310	789	2	..	146	..	5	128	281	1,074	28·13	10·

STATEMENT No. VII.—(JUDICIAL)

Showing the employment of Convicts as prison officers.

(Abolished under the orders of the Government of India.)

STATEMENT No. VIII.—(Financial)

Showing the scales of diet in force in the Jails of Assam.

(Abolished under the orders of the Government of India.)

STATEMENT No. IX.—

Showing the Expenditure in guarding and maintaining the Prisoners in the Jails of Assam

	1				2					
	Daily average number of prisoners				Establishment				Dietary	
					A	B	C	D	A	B
	Convicts	Under-trial	Civil	Total	Permanent	Temporary	Total cost	Cost per head of average strength	Rations	Miscellaneous dietary charges
					Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs. a. p.	Rs.	Rs.
Total ..	2,634·45	579·56	1·71*	3,215·72	1,85,302	4,303	1,89,605	58 15 5	1,20,770	194
Total for 1938..	2,804·73	495 52	3·87	3,304·12	1,81,583	5,094	1,86,677	56 8 0	1,13,109	220

* Includes ·74 State prisoners.

STATEMENT No. IX.—

Showing the Expenditure in guarding and maintaining the Prisoners in the Jails of Assam

	5		6						
	Clothing and bedding of prisoners		Sanitation charges					Charges for	
	A	B	A	B	C	D	E	A	B
	Total cost	Cost per head of average strength excluding civil prisoners.	Charges for conservancy, cleansing and purifying	Charges for water-supply	Extraordinary charges	Total cost	Cost per head of average strength	Transfer charges and road subsistence of convicts	Transportation charges
	Rs.	Rs. a. p.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs. a. p.	Rs.	Rs.
Total ..	15,598	4 13 8	3,453	263	..	3,716	1 2 6	9,898	..
Total for 1938..	20,736	6 4 6	3,221	105	..	3,326	1 0 1	9,281	..

(FINANCIAL)

during the year 1939 (excluding the cost of building new Jails, of Additions, Alterations and Repairs)

3				4							
charges				Hospitals charges							
C	D	E	F	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	
Garden and agricultural expenses	Proportion of dairy expenses	Total cost	Cost per head of average strength, excluding civil prisoners	Sick diet and extras for patients	Extras or special diet for weakly prisoners not in hospital	Medicines, medical stores, hospital-bedding, clothing, etc.	Proportion of dairy expenses	Total cost	Cost per head of average strength	Cost per head of average number sick	
Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs. a. p.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	
2,051	83	1,23,098	38 4 9	5,833	1,629	8,990	—94	16,358	5 1 5	212 5 9	Total
2,015	38	1,15,382	34 15 5	5,822	1,842	7,329	—235	14,758	4 7 6	189 7 6	Total for 1938

(FINANCIAL)—*contd.*

during the year 1938 (excluding the cost of building new Jails, of Additions, Alterations and Repairs)—contd.

7		8								
moving prisoners		Charges for other miscellaneous services and supplies								
C	D	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	
Total cost	Cost per head of average strength	Lighting charges	Disciplinary charges	Annual expenses for uniform and accoutrements of warders	Money payments as reward for recaptures and services	Execution charges	Other miscellaneous charges	Total cost	Cost per head of average strength	
Rs.	Rs. a. p.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs. a. p.	
9,898	3 1 3	8,373	181	7,103	3,184	56	5,574	24,471	7 9 9	Total
9,281	2 12 11	7,571	328	6,396	3,478	12	5,262	23,047	6 15 7	Total for 1938

STATEMENT No. IX.-

Showing the Expenditure in guarding and maintaining the Prisoners in the Jails of Assa

	9		10									
	Travelling allowances		Contingencies								Extra	
	A	B	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	A	B
	Total cost	Cost per head of average strength	Rents, rates and taxes	Service postage	Telegram and telephone charges	Current office expenses including country Stationery	Office furniture	Charges for registers and stationery (Stationery Department charges)	Total cost	Cost per head of average strength	Conservancy and water-supply dead-stock	Dietary dead-stock
	Rs.	Rs. a. p.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs. a. p.	Rs.	Rs.
Total ..	4,732	1 7 7	10,804	2,335	867	598	425	235	15,264	4 11 11	1,026	1,292
Total for 1938	4,513	1 5 10	11,027	2,243	817	734	188	100	15,109	4 9 2	2,076	1,777

(FINANCIAL)—*concld.*

during the year 1939 (excluding the cost of building new Jails, of Additions, Alterations and Repairs)—concld.

11										12		
Ordinary charges for live stock tools plant likely to last for three years and upwards												
C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L			
Hospital dead-stock	Garden and agricultural plant	Lighting dead-stock	Disciplinary dead-stock	Arms and accoutrements (original cost)	Dairy live-stock and plant (excluding maintenance)	Draught cattle (excluding keep which goes under 8 F)	Other miscellaneous dead-stock	Total cost	Cost per head of average strength	Grand total of expenditure	Total cost per head of average strength	
Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs. a. p.	Rs.	Rs. a. p.	
115	152	91	159	50	—20	470	511	3,846	1 3 2	4,06,586	126 7 0	Total
220	170	111	250	—151	20	..	666	5,139	1 8 10	3,97,968	120 7 2	Total for 1938.

STATEMENT No. X.—(Financial)

Showing the expenditure in guarding and maintaining the prisoners in the jails of Assam (excluding the cost of building new jails, etc.). Compared with the expenditure on the same account in each of the three preceding years.

(Abolished under the orders of the Government of India.)

STATEMENT No. XI

STATEMENT No.

Showing the employment of Convicts in the

	1	2	3	4	5	6				
						Average number employed				
						On prison duties				
						A	B	C	D	E
	Average number not sentenced to labour	Average number under sentence of labour on working days	Average number sick	Average number convalescent and infirm	Average number not employed for other reasons	On unremunerative labour	Prison officers	Prison servants	Gardening	Employed in preparing articles for use or consumption in jail. *e.g.*, wheat-grinding, manufacturing of prison clothing, etc.
Total ..	18·96	2,586·37	68·65	137·46	148·24	73·32	274·22	682·93	230·77	266·26
Total for 1938 ..	19·77	2,756·25	69·30	134·62	185·69	73·89	275·30	619·13	213·92	324·94

XI.—(Financial)

Jails of Assam during the year 1939.

on working days							7	8			
On jail buildings					K	L	Number of prisoners hired out to municipalities, private individuals, or departments other than the Public Works Department	Ratio per cent. on column 2 of those employed on working days as—			
F	Additions and alterations		New jails								
	G	H	I	J							
Jail repairs	Under Superintendent	Under Public Works Department	Under Superintendent	Under Public Works Department	Manufactures	Public Works		Prison officers	Prison servants	On manufactures	
19·32	14·59	5·41	4·46	..	659·66	·97	·11	11	26	26	Total.
18·60	40·18	·17	28·42	..	770·72	1·28	·09	10	22	28	Total for 1938.

STATEMENT No. XII.—(Financial)

Showing the net cash earnings of convicts sentenced to labour in the jails of Assam.

(Abolished under the orders of the Government of India.)

STATEMENT No. XII-A

STATEMENT No.

Showing the result of the employment of convicts on Manufactures and

—	1	2				
		Debits				
	Average number sentenced to labour	Cash in hand at the end of the previous year	Value of manufactured articles in store at the end of the previous year	Value of raw materials in store at the end of the previous year	Amount of outstanding bills due by the jails at the end of the year including bills for supplies from jails and other departments of Government remaining unadjusted at the end of the year	Amount of outstanding bills due to the Jails at the end of the previous year including bills for supplies made to Jails and other departments remaining unadjusted at the end of that year.
		A	B	C	D	E
		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Total ..	2,586·37	1,874	17,814	12,523	213	8,836
Total for 1938 ...	2,756·25	633	32,498	13,775	191	10,115

	Credits					
	Amount of outstanding bills due by the jails at the end of the previous year, including bills for supplies from jails and other departments of Government remaining unadjusted at the end of that year	Amount of outstanding bills due to the jails at the end of the year, including bills for supplies made to jails and other departments remaining unadjusted at the end of the year	Value of plant and machinery in store at the end of the year	Amount paid into the treasury in cash during the year, *plus* value of goods, etc., supplied to jails and other departments of Government bills for which have been adjusted during the year	Value of prison labour on major works costing over Rs.500	Total
	D	E	F	G	H	I
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Total..	144	7,812	12,129	88,293	881	1,35,588
Total for 1938 ..	759	8,836	13,267	94,689	650	1,50,412

XII-A.—(Financial)

Extramural Labour in the Jails of Assam during the year 1939.

			3			
			Credits			
Value of plant and machinery at the end of the previous year	Amount drawn from the treasury on account of manufactures *plus* value of goods, etc., received from other jails and departments of Government bills for which have been adjusted, during the year.	Total	Cash in hand at the end of the year	Value of manufactured articles in store at the end of the year	Value of raw materials in store at the end of the year	
F	G	H	A	B	C	
Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
13,267	62,632	1,17,159	2,292	13,093	10,944	Total.
9,416	73,286	1,39,914	1,874	17,814	12,523	Total for 1938.

4			5			
Excess of credits or net profits	Average profits per head sentenced to labour	Excess of debits or loss	Excess of 3G over 2G or profit	Average cash profit per head of number sentenced to labour	Excess of 2G over 3G or cash loss	
A	B	C	A	B	C	
Rs.	Rs. a.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs. a.	Rs.	
18,429	7 12	..	25,661	9 15	..	Total.
10,498	3 13	..	21,403	7 12	..	Total for 1938.

STATEMENT No.

Showing the net cost of the prisoners in the

	1	2	3
	Total cost of maintenance (column 12, Statement No. IX)	Average cost of maintenance per head (column 12, Statement No. IX)	Total cash earnings (column 5A, Statement No. XIIA)
	Rs. a	Rs. a.	Rs. a.
Total ..	4,06,586 0	126 7	25,661 0
Total for 1938 ..	3,97,968 0	120 0	21,403 0

STATEMENT No

Showing the sickness and mortality among Prisoners of all Class

1		2			3			4			5		
Class of prisoners		Number of persons that can be accommodated in the parts of the jails devoted to convicts, under-trials, and civil prisoners, respectively, but exclusive of hospital and observation cells			Average daily strength			Maximum population on any one day			Number admitted into hospital		
		M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total
Total	Convicts ..	3,265	129	3,394	2,604·81	29·64	2,634·45	..	..	..	877	17	89[illegible]
	Under-trial ..	343	13	356	570·57	8·99	579·56	..	..	..	193	5	19[illegible]
	Civil	26	..	26	1·24	..	1·24	..	..	..	..	..	..
	State	..	..	..	·47	..	·47	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Total ..	3,634	142	3,776	3,177·09	38·63	3,215·72	..	..	..	1,070	22	1,0[illegible]
Total for 1938 ..	Convicts ..	3,262	128	3,390	2,770·50	34·23	2,[illegible]04·73	..	..	..	942	12	9[illegible]
	Under-trial ..	343	13	356	487·73	7·79	495·52	..	..	..	195	6	20[illegible]
	Civil	26	..	26	1·91	..	1·91	..	..	..	..	..	..
	State	..	..	..	1·96	..	1·96	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Total ..	3,631	141	3,772	3,262·10	42·02	3,304·12	..	..	..	1,137	18	1,1[illegible]

XIII.—(Financial)

Jails of Assam during the year 1939.

4	5	6	
Average cash earnings per head of average strength	Net cost to Government (column 1 *minus* column 3)	Average net cost per head of average strength (column 2 *minus* column 4)	
Rs. a.	Rs. a.	Rs. a.	
8 0	3,80,925 0	118 7	Total.
6 8	3,76,565 0	113 8	Total for 1938.

XIV—(Vital)

in the Jails of Assam during the year 1939.

6			7			8												
Daily average number sick			Number of deaths in and out of hospital			Ratio per mille of average strength												
						A			B			C			D			
						Of admission into hospital			Of daily average number sick			Of deaths from all causes except cholera			Of deaths from all causes, both in and out of hospital			
M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total	M	F.	Total	
67·54	1·11	68·65	78	1	79	336·68	573·55	339·35	25·93	37·45	26·06	29·94	33·74	29·99	29·94	33·74	29·99	Total.
8·07	·31	8·38	6	..	6	338·26	556·17	341·64	14·14	34·48	14·46	10·52	..	10·35	10·52	..	10·35	
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
75·61	1·42	77·03	84	1	85	336·78	569·51	339·58	23·80	36·76	23·95	26·44	25·89	26·43	26·44	25·89	26·43	
68·96	1·18	70·14	58	2	60	340·01	350·57	340·14	24·89	34·47	25·01	29·03	58·43	21·39	29·03	58·43	21·39	Total for 1938.
7·52	·23	7·75	4	..	4	399·80	770·22	405·63	15·42	29·40	15·64	8·20	..	8·07	8·20	..	8·07	
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
76·48	1·41	77·89	62	2	64	348·55	428·37	349·56	23·44	33·56	23·57	19·01	47·60	19·37	19·01	47·60	19·37	

STATEMENT No. XV.—(Vital)

Showing the admissions and deaths from the chief diseases among the Convicts in the Jails of Assam.

(Abolished under the orders of the Government of India.)

STATEMENT No. XVI.—(Vital)

Showing the mortality among Convicts in the jails of Assam according to length of original sentence.

(Abolished under the orders of the Government of India.)

STATEMENT

Showing the Mortality among the Convicts in the Jails of

—	1 Not exceeding six months in Jail			2 Above six months, and not exceeding one year			3 Above one year, and not exceeding two years		
	Average number	Deaths	Ratio of deaths per mille of average number	Average number	Deaths	Ratio of deaths per mille of average number	Average number	Deaths	Ratio of deaths per mille of average number
Total ..	1,350·02	32	23·70	479·39	7	14·60	321·00	14	43·61
Total for 1938 ..	1,515·56	13	8·58	383·33	11	28·70	368·32	18	48·87

STATEMENT

Showing particulars regarding Prisoners under trial

—	1 Number remaining at the end of the previous year		2 Number received		3 Total			4 Daily average number			5 Released		
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total
Total ..	532	3	7,758	139	8,290	142	8,432	570·57	8·99	579·56	5,046	89	5,135
Total for 1938 ..	459	9	7,136	124	7,595	133	7,728	487·73	7·79	495·52	4,587	69	4,656

No. XVII.—(Vital)

Assam during the year 1939, according to the length of time passed in Jails.

4			5			6			7			
Above two years, and not exceeding three years			Above three years, and not exceeding seven years			Above seven years			Total			
Average number	Deaths	Ratio of deaths per mille of average number	Average number	Deaths	Ratio of deaths per mille of average number	Average number	Deaths	Ratio of deaths per mille of average number	Average number	Deaths	Ratio of deaths per mille of average number	
212·14	10	47·14	199·75	10	50·06	89·33	6	67·17	2,651·63	79	29·79	Total
257·67	7	27·17	234·16	9	38·44	54·67	2	36·58	2,813·71	60	21·32	Total for 1938.

No. XVIII

in the Jails of Assam during the year 1939.

6			7		8		9		10			
Convicted and sentenced			Transferred		Escaped		Died		Remaining on 31st December 1939			
M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	Total	
2,241	30	2,271	322	12	3	..	6	..	672	11	683	Total.
2,085	52	2,137	387	9	..	..	4	..	532	3	535	Total for 1938.

STATE

Showing the nature and amount of accommodation for each class of prisoners

Description of accommodation		Number of prisoners who could be accommodated on the 31st							
		Hospital		Observation cells		Civil prisoners		Under-trials	
		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
1		2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Total	Cells	..	..	28	2	..	..	..	..
	Barracks, with separate sleeping accommodation.	268	12	4	..	26	..	334	13
	Ditto without ditto.	5	..	..	..	..	..	9	...
	Total ..	273	12	32	2	26	..	343	13
	Total average population	209·34	·68	25·78	·26	19·41	..	318·89	3·40
Total for 1938	Cells	..	..	28	2	..	..	..	..
	Barracks, with separate sleeping accommodation.	268	12	4	..	26	..	334	13
	Ditto without ditto	5	..	..	..	..	..	9	...
	Total ..	273	12	32	2	26	..	343	13
	Total average population	223·37	·01	25·21	·88	19·83	..	248·53	1·10

ANNUAL STATE

Showing the condition of the convicts discharged from

	1	2	3		
	Number discharged during the year	Number who had neither lost nor gained weight in jail	Number who had gained		
			A	B	C
			Up to 1 lb.	From 1 to 5 lbs.	From 5 to 10 lbs.
Total	5,806	1,676	395	1,370	991
Total for 1938	6,189	1,725	476	1,562	1,904

MENT A

in the Jails of Assam during the year 1939.

December 1939, in the parts of the Jails devoted to—						Superficial area per prisoner in square yards in the enclosures (ward and workshop) to which the prisoners are ordinarily confined	Spent on Jail buildings during the year		
Europeans		Juvenile convicts	Female convicts	Male convicts	Grand total		By Jail Department	By Public Works Department	
M.	F.								
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
							Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	
..	..	..	..	36	66	..	..	..	Total.
6		13	129	2,898	3,703	..	..	..	
..	..	..	..	392	406	..	..	..	
6	..	13	129	3,326	4,175	..	21,745 9 0	22,911 13 0	
2·71	..	8·24	42·94	2,584·07	3,215·72	..	...	..	
..	..	..	..	36	66	..	..	..	Total for 1938.
6	..	13	128	2,905	3,709	..	..	..	
..	..	..	..	382	396	..	..	..	
6	..	13	128	3,323	4,171	..	27,804 10 9	35,050 5 0	
4·42	..	7·46	46·37	2,690·94	3,304·12	..	..	..	

MENT B

the Jails of Assam during the year 1939.

weight		4					
		Number who had lost weight					
D	Total	A	B	C	D	Total	
Over 10 lbs.		Up to 1 lb.	From 1 to 5 lbs.	From 5 to 10 lbs.	Over 10 lbs.		
554	3,310	170	419	165	66	820	Total.
505	3,547	208	462	162	85	917	Total for 1938.

STATE

Showing the working of the remission system in

—	Number released during the year who came under the remission system but failed to gain remission	Number of convicts released during the year who gained remission				Maximum remission in released during	
		Sentenced to				Sen-	
		One year	Not exceeding 2 years	Not exceeding 5 years	Over 5 years	One year	Not exceeding 2 years
—	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Total ..	1	1,274	220	168	39	90	215
Total for 1938 ..	..	1,434	268	229	42	75	151

MENT C

the Jails of Assam during the year 1939.

days gained by any convict the year — tenced to— Not exceeding 5 years	Over 5 years	Average remission gained by the convicts entered in columns 2 to 5 — Sentenced to— One year	Not exceeding 2 years	Not exceeding 5 years	Over 5 years	Maximum gratuity earned by any convict released during the year	Average gratuity earned by the convicts entered in columns 2 to 5
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
						Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
367	1,444	25	91	231	453	22 12 0	1 2 6
404	691	10	92	215	398	25 0 0	1 3 10

STATEMENT D

Showing the nature of the crime of which convicts were imprisoned in the jails of Assam.

(Abolished under the orders of the Government of India.)

PROVINCIAL STATEMENT A—(ASSAM)

Showing the number of inspections made by official and non-official visitors in the Jails of Assam during the year 1939.

—	Governor	Member in charge	Commissioner	Inspector-General of Prisons	*Ex-officio* visitors	District officers	Joint Magistrate, Assistant Magistrate, Deputy Magistrate or Extra Assistant Commissioner	Civil Surgeon	Judge	Board of visitors	Individual visitors	Superintendents of Jails	Lady visitors	
—	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
Total ..	5	14	19	13	31	89	49	52	1	71	127	5,547	33	Total.